

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Final Office Action dated September 14, 2006. Claims 1, 6, 26-29, 32-36 and 39 are pending, with Claims 1 and 6 in independent form. Dependent Claims 31 and 38 have been incorporated into their independent Claims 1 and 6, respectively. Accordingly, Claims 31 and 38 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. The other amendments to Claims 1 and 6 either pertain to formal matters and do not narrow the scope of these claims or broaden the scope of these claims. In addition, Claims 30 and 37 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1 and 6 were objected to by the Office Action for including informalities that are believed to have been addressed by the amendments herein. In this regard, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's suggested amendments to the claims and have adopted them herein. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections to Claims 1 and 6 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6, 26, 27, 29-34, and 36-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,640,190 (Bollansee et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,982,203 (Uebbing et al.). Claims 28 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over the Bollansee et al. Patent in view of the Uebbing et al. Patent, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,812,176 (Kawabe et al.). Applicants respectfully submit that the amended claims are patentable over the cited references, taken separately or in any proper combination, for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 requires a method for tailoring light output from light emitting diodes (LEDs) in a printer or electrographic copier that exposes a charged photosensitive member to light from the LEDs. The method includes calculating a light-output correction for each of a plurality of subsets of the LEDs, each light-output correction being calculated based at least upon factors pertaining to (a) a light output from the LED subset associated with the light-output correction being calculated, and (b) an average light output from at least a plurality of subsets of the LEDs. Each light-output correction facilitates correction of the light output from its associated LED subset as a function of applied voltage or supplied current; and adjusting the light output from the LED

subsets as a function of applied voltage or supplied current in accordance with their corresponding light-output corrections.

A notable feature of Claim 1 is the calculating of a light output correction for each of a plurality of subsets of the LEDs, wherein each subset includes more than one LED. The Office Action refers to column 10, line 3 to column 11, line 4 of the Bollansee et al. Patent as allegedly teaching calculating a light-output correction for each of a plurality of subsets of LEDs. See the middle of page 3 of the Office Action. However, Applicants understand this portion and related portions of the Bollansee et al. Patent to pertain to a second correction means that corrects energy output of individual recording sources, such as LEDs, and not subsets of LEDs. See column 9, line 53 to column 10, line 2; column 3, lines 35-41; and column 3, line 62 to column 4, line 2. For example, column 10, line 3 to column 11, line 4 is understood to describe the “operating principles of [a] second correction means” See col. 9, lines 53-54. Column 3, lines 40-41 describes “second correction means for applying . . . second correction factors” Column 3, lines 35-39 describes that the “second correction factors [are] derived from said measurements of the non-uniformities of the energy output of each one of said individual recording sources” (underline added by Applicants) Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Bollansee et al. Patent’s second correction means, cited by the Office Action, does not pertain to calculating a light-output correction for each of a plurality of subsets of LEDs, as required by Claim 1.

The Bollansee et al. Patent does, however, describe first correction factors/means that are understood to correct an average energy output of each subset of recording sources. See column 3, lines 28-34 and column 9, lines 34-52. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the first correction factors/means of the Bollansee et al. Patent also do not meet the calculating step of Claim 1. In particular, Applicants submit that the first correction factors/means at least are not light-output corrections calculated based upon a factor pertaining to an average light output from at least a plurality of subsets of LEDs, as required by Claim 1. To elaborate, the Bollansee et al. Patent is understood to teach that the first correction factors/means “set the average energy level of a series of N recording sources of a recording module to a predetermined reference level” See column 9, lines 34-37. However, the

Bollansee et al. Patent is not understood to teach or suggest that the predetermined reference level is an average light output from at least a plurality of subsets of LEDs, as required by Claim 1. In contrast to Claim 1, the Bollansee et al. Patent appears to suggest the opposite, because it states that “[i]t is therefore an object of the first correction means to ensure that the average amount of energy emitted by the LEDs of each subset of LEDs equals the amount of energy emitted by the reference LED” See column 10, line 65 to column 11, line 1 (underline added by Applicants). According to this statement, it appears that the Bollansee et al. Patent is describing that the predetermined reference level is an amount of energy emitted by a single reference LED and not by a subset of LEDs, as required by Claim 1. (Applicants note that Claim 1 now specifies that a subset of LEDs includes more than one LED). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the first correction factor/means of the Bollansee et al. Patent do not teach or suggest that a light-output correction for each of a plurality of subsets of LEDs is calculated based at least upon an average light output from at least a plurality of subsets of the LEDs, as required by Claim 1.

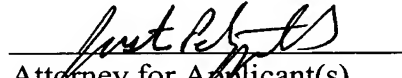
For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentable over the Bollansee et al. Patent. None of the other references are cited by the Office Action as allegedly teaching or suggesting these features of Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over these references as well, taken separately or in any proper combination with the Bollansee et al. Patent.

Independent Claim 6 includes the same or similar features to that discussed above in connection with Claim 1 and is submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. The other claims in this application depend from one of the independent claims discussed above and are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicants undersigned Attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and the allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.